



2016 Astronomy Festival Schedule

(Subject to change)

Thursday, September 29

12:00 – 4:00: Solar viewing, solar bracelet making, various fun activities

Come learn about the sun, observe it safely, and take home your own glow-in-the-sun bracelet.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

1:00 – 4:00: Volunteer check-in*

Picnic area

3:00: Ranger Program: How to Use a Planisphere

Join a dark ranger to learn the basics of observing the night sky using an important tool, a planisphere.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

7:00: Ranger Talent Show

Come to one of our most popular events, featuring the numerous talents of the Great Basin National Park Staff, as (sometimes distantly!) related to the stars.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

8:00 – 12:00: Star party/observing

Enjoy an opportunity to view planets, galaxies, nebulae, star clusters, and other objects through the many telescopes our dedicated volunteers will provide.

Picnic area

8:00: Kid's program: Deep Sky Certificates

Join the hunt to find certain objects many light years away from us. When you finish, you'll get a personalized certificate!

Picnic area

8:30: Constellation tour

Join a dark ranger to learn some of the stories in the sky.

Picnic area



2016 Astronomy Festival Schedule

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Friday, September 30

10:00: Guided Observatory Walk

Join us to learn about the amazing opportunities provided by Great Basin's research grade observatory, the first of its kind in a national park.

Meet at Lehman Caves Visitor Center; we will walk to the site.

12:00 – 4:00: Solar viewing, solar bracelet making, various fun activities

Come learn about the sun, observe it safely, and take home your own glow-in-the-sun bracelet.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

12:00: Ranger Program: Astronomy 101

Join a Dark Ranger to learn some of the basics of one of our favorite subjects.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

1:00 – 4:00: Volunteer check-in*

Picnic area

2:00: Great Basin for Kids: The Moon

Learn about Earth's one and only lunar neighbor in an activity especially for kids.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

3:00: Ranger Program: How to Use a Planisphere

Join a dark ranger to learn the basics of observing the night sky using an important tool, a planisphere.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

7:00: Keynote Speaker: Dr. Anil Seth: The Andromeda Galaxy, Our Nearest Neighbor

Andromeda is the most distant object you can see with the naked eye, and a twin galaxy to our own Milky Way. As our nearest big neighbor, astronomers study Andromeda to understand how stars and galaxies form. Recently, the Hubble Space telescope created an amazing 6 billion pixel image of Andromeda. In his talk, Dr. Seth will highlight what we've learned from this data and showcase the most beautiful parts of the galaxy.

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Saturday, October 1

6:00 – 7:30: Equinox Sunrise Walk: The Fremont Indian Culture

Stroll with Ranger Steve to the Baker Archaeological Site, and watch the just-past equinox sunrise. Learn of the Fremont culture and the importance of the celestial sphere to them.

Baker Archaeological Site

12:00 – 4:00: Solar viewing, solar bracelet making, various fun activities

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Lehman Caves Visitor Center

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Lehman Caves Visitor Center

Picnic area



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Picnic area

1:00: Night photography workshop

Ranger Zach is visiting us from Cedar Breaks National Monument to share his knowledge of photographing the night sky. This workshop is aimed at beginners, no experience is necessary. Participants must sign up in advance – details to come.

Great Basin Visitor Center Classroom

2:00: Kid's Program: Space Jingle!

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

3:00: Ranger Program: How to Use a Planisphere

Join a dark ranger to learn the basics of observing the night sky using an important tool, a planisphere.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

4:30: Volunteer appreciation dinner *

The Border Inn

7:00: An Evening With Our Bat Biologists

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

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Picnic area

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* - These events are for festival volunteers only.